



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

December 2022  Issue 119

Connect

Keeping you up to date with news from your Buller District Council



Mayor's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of Connect. It was an honour to be re-elected as the Mayor and to welcome a number of new Councillors on-board.

With a new Council a key focus is to ensure the new elected members are well supported into their roles to maintain the positive momentum, that the last triennium established.

Council has a busy programme of infrastructure projects underway post floods, on top of the planned activities set out in the 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan (LTP). Our priorities are to repair key infrastructure, like the port and the old Reefton landfill as well as further work on the stormwater system and the Westport water supply that was damaged during the floods. We have a large workload with big externally funded projects. These will require strategic governance from Council which we will continue to deliver using our proven Projects in Partnership group.

Council will continue to work with the West Coast Regional Council and central government on future flood protection as part of the Kawatiri Business case. There are some big topics on the horizon with the Te Tai o Poutini Plan submissions, the Three Water Reform gaining momentum,

and the draft report on Local Government Reform.

It is very important that the community feels part of local government and I am committed to improving this by being visible and available by continuing with our open communication approach that was very successful through my last term. My aim is to provide a clear line between governance and management and to facilitate an open discussion with our residents.

The regular Monday Mayor chats at the Mayor's office in the Clocktower Chambers have re-started and members of the public can meet with me on a first come, first seen basis. Drop-in days in Reefton and Karamea will be scheduled.

The monthly mayor radio interviews on Coast FM, the weekly Friday Forums on Council's facebook page and in the Westport News, as well as frequent updates through the Jamie Cleine - Buller Mayor facebook page will continue.
Mayor Jamie Cleine

The Reefton Visitor and Service Centre opens its doors

The new combined one-stop-shop for Reefton's residents and visitors opened its doors in November. The name for the merged facility is the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre.

All services are available at the new Reefton Visitor and Service Centre including Council services, the Inangahua County Library, NZ Post, and Waka Kotahi/NZTA. Visitors will continue to be able to access visitor information, make bookings, and obtain advice for their stay in Reefton.

The Reefton Visitor Centre's theatre and the exhibition area will remain part of the new service hub, but with a slightly changed layout. The ANZ ATM will stay at its current location.

A temporary library has been set up until the permanent library space has the necessary building works completed. The PO boxes will remain where they are on the corner of Broadway and Smith Streets until the new ones are installed at the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre.

The project is set in stages so residents and visitors can use all services and will see continual improvements in the coming months.



**For more information
visit [bullerdc.govt.nz/
facilities/reefton-visitor-
and-service-centre/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/facilities/reefton-visitor-and-service-centre/)**

Around the Buller District

Local
news

There is a lot happening in our district. Find out how Council supports the amazing initiatives, people, projects and organisations in Buller and how you can work with us shaping our district.

Funding opportunities

Council is calling for applications to the District Economic Stimulus Fund, Creative Communities Fund, Community Grants and Rural Travel Fund until 27 February 2023.

Development West Coast's District Economic Stimulus Fund aims to stimulate business development and growth in the district. The fund was set up to support projects that leverage additional funding from other funding sources.

The Community Grants Fund is for community groups and organisations that are carrying out projects that align with Council's Community Outcomes.

If you are dreaming about an art project, exhibition, workshop, art class or performance you may be eligible for funding from the Creative Communities Scheme.

The Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund assists the development of junior sport in rural communities by subsidising travel costs.

All forms are available from Council's offices in Westport and Reefton or can be downloaded from Council's website. Please contact the Community Services Officer for assistance via grants@bdc.govt.nz or 027 315 7021

New website

Buller District Council's new website was launched in December 2022. The new website replaced the outdated WordPress website that council has had for several years.

Check out Council's new website and the many additional features at bullerdc.govt.nz



MBC staff controlling gorse
Photo by Buller District Council

Restoring and protecting

Buller's environment is being given a helping hand as part of the Restoring and Protecting Flora project – an initiative of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.

A team from local contractor MBC Environmental has been hard at work controlling invasive weeds in ecologically significant areas around rivers and estuaries, on farms and lifestyle blocks, in forests and along the coast.

"It's exciting to make such an impact," says Community Engagement and Operational Liaison Sacha Healey. "The team has treated over 650ha since April 2022.

They've also found some highly invasive weeds in areas they haven't been seen in before, which is hugely important as it means we can stop them before they spread."

The work is funded through the Department of Conservation's Jobs for Nature fund and is managed by The Nature Conservancy. Additional funding has been sought to replant some areas with natives. "Nature abhors a vacuum," notes Project Manager Hudson Dodd. "To prevent re-infestation at select sites such as the Martins Creek wetland, we are following up

by planting site-appropriate native species, so that long-term suppression can be more easily achieved."

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance is a collective of iwi and councils from Te Taihū and northern Te Tai Poutini, as well as the Department of Conservation, and global supporter The Nature Conservancy.

"It's exciting to make such an impact," says Community Engagement and Operational Liaison Sacha Healey.

Stay tuned for ways to participate, with tree planting at Floating Basin and weed ID workshops planned for 2023. For more information or to get involved, contact Sacha Healey on sacha.healey@bdc.govt.nz or 027 252 2595.

Newspaper project

Newspapers are large, cheap, and disposable. They are not made to last but they are an extremely important resource to look back into the past.

This was the conundrum faced by the Coaltown Museum and Buller District Libraries when deciding what to do with 40 years' worth of the Westport News. The library had given the newspapers to Coaltown Museum to store when space was running out in previous years.

When the museum needed the space back, Frances O'Brien, archivist and librarian at Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library, took on the challenge to find a new, lasting, and accessible home for this record of Buller's past.

"The National Library is the only other place in the country that archives the Westport News. The National Library copies will be digitised and published online on Papers Past, but that won't be for a while. We wanted the local community

to be able to access these treasures of Buller's history in the meantime."

Frances and Coaltown's Museum collections cataloguer Ralph Rataul applied for a \$1900 Helping Hands Grant from Te Papa's National Services Te Paerangi to purchase preservation-quality newspaper boxes.

"When the grant was approved we were really pleased that we could start the project. With additional support from the Buller District Libraries, we were able to purchase 125 boxes. This allowed us to rehouse the entire newspaper assemblage."

The newspapers moved from the Coaltown Museum into the library's archive room. The public is now able to look at the newspapers in the library's reading room in Westport.



For more information ask the library staff or visit www.ent.kotui.org.nz/client/en_AU/buller/



Rehousing old newspapers
Photo by Buller District Council



Full house at the Lyric Theatre
Photo by Jackie Mathers

The Lyric Theatre

The Lyric Theatre, Granity was constructed in the 1950's and has had a long and colourful history. Thanks to the Northern Buller Communities Society and Buller District Council it shines again.

When ex-tropical cyclone Ita called on Buller in April 2014, it took almost the entire roof off the Lyric Theatre leaving the interior open to the elements.

The Lyric Theatre, Granity is owned by the Northern Buller Communities Society and was voted as one of the most

valued buildings in the area during the Vision 2010 consultations in 2006.

Despite this devastating blow and having only a small insurance payment available to repair the roof, the society responded to a community-led desire to restore the building.

The role of theatre management volunteers soon changed to that of rebuild project managers with a raft of rebuild planning, paperwork, and funding applications to deal with.

Secretary/treasurer Jackie Mathers said the Buller District Council had been a supporter of the project from the beginning. "Senior Building Inspector Richard Knudsen attended the first public meeting we had after the cyclone to assure us we could rebuild" she said. "Since then, we've had Council support both in the form of grants for items such as consent costs, exterior landscaping and a new noticeboard for events, to a mobile scaffold funded through Council's Community Grants". Code Compliance was issued in April 2022.

The Creative Communities Scheme administered by Council, was key to enabling the society to hold a long-planned celebration of volunteer efforts in October 2022.

Ms Mathers says that although the damage was devastating, with it came a determination to rebuild the theatre better and stronger than before, with the aim for the Lyric Theatre to be a key part of the performing arts community in our region and beyond.

Recycling and waste

Explore how Buller's recycling and waste system is working and what we do to improve our local waste and recycling management.



 **St Canice's school kids auditing waste**
Photo by Enviroschools

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The best way to improve our waste and recycling system is to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Here are some super easy tips to get you started.

The best thing you can do to reduce waste is to look at your rubbish bin and ask yourself what doesn't have to be in there. Is there food that you can compost? Are there takeaway coffee cups when you could simply get your own reusable coffee mug instead? Are there items you don't need, but are still in good enough condition for someone else to enjoy? Could you bake your favorite muffin instead of buying it wrapped in plastic?

Making small changes to your daily habits doesn't have to cost you money and requires very small effort (you will be surprised how quickly you take your reusable coffee cup wherever you go without even thinking) and will save you money.

Reusing items is another great way to be more environmentally conscious and save money. One of the easy switches is reusing plastic containers for food container storage. Smaller pottles such as pesto containers make the perfect spaghetti storage, and larger ice cream containers are great for pretty much anything to put in your freezer.

Recycling right is another easy way to do your part. If you make sure you purchase recyclable items made out of plastics 1, 2 and 5, cardboard, or tin and rinse, clean, take lids off and check these before throwing them in your yellow bin, your recycling will have a second life.

During the holidays, a large amount of food goes to waste. Plan ahead for your meals and supermarket shop to prevent unneeded ingredients making their way into your trolley. If you have leftover ingredients, just add them to another meal or see what you could make out of them. Freeze those leftovers instead of saying you'll eat them tomorrow. Not only have you stopped them going to waste, but you have an easy, on-the-go meal for later!

Being environmentally conscious not only benefits the environment. With every reduction, reusing or better recycling you stop waste going in your rubbish. You will save money, time and it makes you feel good about your contribution.



For more information on reduce, reuse, recycle visit [bullerdc.govt.nz/waste-and-recycling/](https://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/waste-and-recycling/)

Update

Composting workshop

In partnership with Number 37 Community House Council is offering a FREE composting workshop on Saturday 21 January 2023, 10am - 12pm at Number 37 Community House, Westport.

Come along and learn the basics of composting, bokashi bins and worm farming in this fun and interactive workshop.

Food scraps and cardboard are perfect to start a compost and the goodness of your home-made compost will enhance the soil quality in your garden. Composting is a great way to help out the environment.

Shared kai and drinks provided. Koha donations appreciated.



To sign up please send your RSVP to jorja.brazil@bdc.govt.nz by 16 January.



Recycling audit system back for summer

Buller District Council and Smart Environmental Ltd have restarted checking residents recycling bins for the summer.

Bins will either receive a green, yellow, or red tag based on their compliancy with the district's recycling rules. Should a bin be yellow or red tagged, staff will leave a recycling guideline in the letterbox outlining the reason for the tag, so residents can learn and improve next time.

Council and Smart Environmental trialed the system in March 2022 and have improved the system to make it more efficient and effective by staff using an app for data collection.

The audits prevent highly contaminated recycling bins going to landfill and educate residents on their recycling practices. It also creates valuable insight into what further education is required and what waste minimisation initiatives the district would benefit from.

Green tagged bins consist entirely of



recyclable material that have no bottle or tin lids and are rinsed, cleaned and checked. Yellow tagged recycling bins contain a few non-recyclable items.

Yellow tagged bins will still be collected, however should a bin be yellow tagged a second time, it will not be emptied. Bins that receive a red tag are highly

contaminated and will not be picked up. The most common unrecyclable items found in residents bins are bottles with their lids left on, or items such as coffee cups.

The goal of the program is to give residents the tools to correctly recycle and to play their part in Buller's waste minimisation.

The Buller recycling and refuse system at a glance

The Buller district is divided into three zones. Each of these zones has specific refuse and recycling guidelines which you can find on Council's website.

Council provides recycling kerbside collection only in zone one. You can find the recycling map and instructions how to determine your collection day online on Council's website under bullerdc.govt.nz/waste-and-recycling/collection-days/.

If you live in zone one, place your wheelie bin and glass crate as close to the kerb as possible and clear of the footpath by 7:30am on your collection day.

Keep in mind that overfull glass crates are a safety hazard. You must ensure the glass is level with the top of the crate or it may not be picked up. Extra bottles can be taken to the transfer station for FREE.

Broken window glass can not go in the recycling bins or be disposed of at the transfer stations. Only glass bottles and jars are accepted as recycling once their lids are off. You need to dispose of broken window glass as refuse.

Buller's recycling guide can be found on the Buller District Council website, as well as more information on recycling in the district.



Buller Recovery Roundup

Update

The Buller Flood Recovery Team is working with central government, local and national organisations to help you and our district to rebuild and recover after the 2021 serious weather events.



Kawatiri dredge in Nelson
Photo by Flood Recovery

Infrastructure progress update

Following the July 2021 and February 2022 floods in Buller, central government via NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) agreed to fund a \$17 million work programme of repairs to essential infrastructure.

This includes repairs to the three waters system (stormwater, drinking water and wastewater), three waters betterment projects, wharf repairs and dredging to help ensure ongoing commercial shipping operations, work on the eastern tiphead as well as Reefton landfill and stopbank work.

Essential work carried out on the Three Waters network:

- CCTV inspections of underground pipes.
- Clean out of silt/grit at the Westport waste treatment plant. The second clean out is complete and the third is planned for February 2023.
- Repairs to Reefton's drinking water reservoir access track (due for completion in December 2022).
- Replacement of the final electrical components on two of Westport's wastewater pump stations.

- Open drains in Northern Buller have been cleaned out.

Repair work underway or in the pipeline:

- Repairs to Reefton's drinking water reservoir access track.
- New pipes for the Waimangaroa drinking water trunkmain.
- A repair strategy is being worked out for repair of the historic Brick Arch section of the stormwater network running under Brougham/Palmerston Streets.



You can find out more about the essential infrastructure repair programme at bullerrecovery.org.nz (search under About/ Essential Infrastructure Repairs).

Community Hub

175 Palmerston Street, Westport

Phone: 0800 768 348

Email: floodrecoveryteam@bdc.govt.nz

Web: bullerrecovery.org.nz

The navigator team based at the Hub can provide you with support through the steps towards getting you and your whānau back on track.



**BULLER
RECOVERY**

Te Kahui Whakaora Kino Taiao o Kawatiri

Infrastructure progress update (cont.)

Three Waters Betterment Projects

The three waters 'betterment' projects are upgrades that are practical and cost-effective to carry out at the same time as essential repair work. They largely relate to Westport stormwater and wastewater improvements that provide flood resilience.

The design and procurement for these projects is underway. Most of these projects will be carried out through the summer months.

Reefton Landfill and river training works

Rosco Contractors Ltd has undertaken river training works in relation to the stopbank project at two sites in the Inangahua River at Reefton.

Work on repairing a section of the flood-damaged rock wall that protects the historic Reefton landfill site will get underway in the coming months. The plan is to cap the landfill and carry out rock revetment work.



Kia ora from the Flood Recovery Navigator Service

The navigator service is starting to turn its mind to preparing the community for when the service ends on 31 January 2023.

The navigators, based at the Community Hub in Westport, were put in place after the July 2021 floods to support those who were affected by the flooding in a variety of ways:

- being someone to talk to
- offering a single point of access for assistance for all recovery needs such as building repairs, wellness and insurance
- helping with insurance queries - including helping put people in contact with Residential Advisory Service (RAS) and Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS)
- providing support when working with builders and other contractors
- connecting people with other agencies that may be able to help.

The navigator service is still definitely here to help people with a range of situations, but they are working towards transitioning their clients to other agencies. The Community Hub will be closed from 4pm on Thursday 22 December and will reopening Monday 9 January at 9am. The opening hours for the Community Hub in 2023 will be Monday – Friday 9am – 12noon. The final hub opening day is Friday 27 January 2023.

Port repairs

Shipping channel dredging

The Kawatiri Dredge has been in Nelson for maintenance and to carry out dredging work. It has recently returned to Westport and has now commenced dredging of the shipping channel.

Tiphead

The Eastern Westport River Training Wall (known locally as the 'Tiphead') sustained damage in the floods. Work to repair and strengthen the tiphead and reinforce the foundations will commence in January and is expected to be completed by March.

Wharf damage

This project focuses on repairing an area of around 300 metres of flood-damaged wharf (out of approximately 1.5kms of wharf overall). This portion of the overall wharf area is considered critical to current and future Port operations.

A geotechnical survey was undertaken to help understand what's happening below ground. That informs the design process for repairs, which is underway.

The overall repair strategy, design and approvals are scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2023, with physical repair work forecast to commence in autumn and take approximately a year to complete.

Community and Council notices

Water notices

Water supplies

Council would like to remind consumers to flush their taps with a mugful of water in the morning prior to use. This applies to all supplies including rainwater. Visit Council's website 'water - plumbosolvency' for details.

There are different levels of water treatment in Buller. The Cape Foulwind water supply (Wilson's Lead Road and Bulls Rd) is a stock supply not intended for human use. A permanent boil water notice applies for Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mokihinui, Ngakawau/Hector, South Grantly and Waimangaroa. Reefton is on a permanent precautionary boil water notice.

Consumers on Westport and Carters Beach Water Supply are asked to conserve water and follow all water restriction notices from Council due to storm impact in the catchment from the February 2022 event.

 For more information contact Council or your local water supplier for Ngakawau/Hector and south Grantly.

Wastewater

Council operates sewerage treatment in Little Wanganui, Reefton and Westport.

Please don't flush any wipes, including those labelled as flushable or paper towels into the toilet.

People who have a connection to the Orowaiti sewerage scheme are reminded that they should no longer be using septic tanks and should be connected to the reticulation.

 For more details contact Council or visit bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/wastewater

Stormwater

Please consider stormwater and wastewater separation. Storm water that enters the sewer must be treated as sewerage. This can cause sewer capacity problems during prolonged and heavy rain.

 For more details contact Council or visit bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/stormwater

Meetings

February to June 2023

All meetings will be livestreamed to Council's Youtube channel Buller District Council. The 2023 meeting calendar can be found at bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/.

Ordinary Council Meeting

- 22 February, 3:30pm
- 29 March, 3:30pm
- 26 April, 3:30pm
- 31 May, 3:30pm
- 28 June, 3:30pm

Community, Environment and Services Committee

- 15 March, 3:30pm
- 17 May, 3:30pm

Inangahua Community Board

- 7 February, 5pm
- 4 April, 5pm
- 6 June, 5pm

Risk and Audit Committee

- 15 February, 3:30pm
- 22 March, 3:30pm
- 19 April, 3:30pm
- 24 May, 3:30pm
- 21 June, 3:30pm

Creative NZ Subcommittee

- 22 March, 1:30pm

If you would like to join the meeting, have any questions regarding these meetings, or would like to address Council during the public forum part of the meeting please contact:

Governance Assistant

Email governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz or
Phone 0800 807 239

Westport office

6-8 Brougham Street, PO Box 21,
Westport 7866, New Zealand

Freephone 0800 807 239
Phone 03 788 9111

Reefton Visitor and Service Centre

67-69 Broadway, PO Box 75,
Reefton 7851, New Zealand

Phone 03 732 8821
Phone 03 732 8391

24 hr Noise and Animal Control Services
Phone 03 788 9115

After hours Operations emergencies
Phone 03 788 9119 Westport,
or 03 732 8821 Reefton

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